A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, January 25. 1711.

THE War being now begun, as I hinted in a late *Review*, and that under the Discouragements, which however unexpected, every Nation that is at War with another ought to be prepar'd for ——— Some necessary Things come in our Way to speak of.

1. So much Mischief Abroad! So little Peace at Home! Alas, alas!

I know no more certain Token of a Nation's approaching Destruction, than when being attack'd with Powerful Enemies Abroad, God does not give them the Grace, or rather indeed the common Sense, to be at Peace with one another at Home; this was the most certain Signal of *Jerusalem*'s approaching Destruction; that even while the *Romans* were battering their Walls, and building their Invincible Circumvallations round the City, the stupid, Enrag'd, infatuated Multitude, were Fighting within against one another, the Seditions and Factions were more Furious one against another; one part (*High Church*) seiz'd one part of the City, *Low Church* another; one Sect Fortify'd the Temple, and cried the Church was in Danger; another Sect Barricadoed *Solomon*'s Porch, setting more by the Steeple than the Church; a third Sect kept to their private Synagogues, and Main-

taining their Traditions, upbraided the other with Designs to forsake the true Religion, and betray them all to the *Romans* ——From their several Retreats, Infinite Depredations, Injuries, Robberies, and Violences were Committed one against another, and at last, Murthers and Slaughter of one another, shooting *Fire-brands*, *Arrows*, and *Death* ——And all this while the Truth of the Case was, that every Side was Virtually and in Consequence, delivering up the City to the Heathen.

Two Things are very remarkable in the Siege of *Jerusalem*, which reach our Case in *Britain* at this Time.

1. That had they United their Strength in the Defence of the Place, the Numbers and Courage of the Inhabitants, and the Strength of the City and Temple being only consider'd, the *Romans* could never have taken the Place.

2. That the Factions, Divisions, and Implacable Strife among them, was the only Cause that brought the *Romans* in to that War.

You are to Note, by the Way, that I speak as to outward Appearance and second Causes, for as to what God had determin'd in the Destruction of that City, that is not the Case——*Unless* we shall inferr, *that the likeness of our Party Divisions, to those of Jerusalem, should signifie the like secret Determination of Heaven for our Destruction.*

To bring these Things Home.

1. Were we United, were our Animosities reconcil'd, or indeed were they reconcileable, *France* would not only not have beaten us in *Spain*, but in my humble Opinion, this had long since ceas'd to be a War there.

2. Could we but yet Unite our Divisions, and Heal our Breaches at Home, *France* would never be able to carry on this War against us.

3. If we do not some Way or other end these Party Divisions, we shall not long be able to carry on the War against any Body.

And give me leave to add one Thing, without pretending to the Spirit of Prophecy —— That whatever War we carry on, till we do some how or other close this Breach that is among us, and heal the Canker of Party Strife, that eats away our Strength, and feeds upon the Vitals of the Nation—— I beg leave to be very positive in it—— Whether I am Prophetically mov'd to it or no, *I cannot say*, but till this is done, *we shall have no Success any where.*

I hear much of Enquiry into Mismanagements of the War in *Spain*; I say frankly, and believe every Honest Man will join with me in it, let all Mismanagements and Mismanagers be Detected—— But I wish the Reason and Nature of Things were well weigh'd—— While we are dividing into furious Parties, and fortifying separate Interests one against another; while Irreconcileable Feuds remain among us, and we refuse to lend our Hands to assist the general Preservation; while we look out for every one's Ranks but our own, and instead of Resisting with an united Force an Invading Enemy, are biting and devouring one another; *you are all* MISMANAGERS, and this Way of behaving is all Mismanagement, and which is worse, it will end as Mismanagement generally does, in Ruin and Disaster, not in *Spain* only, but every where else—— While you bite and devour one another, Whose Work is it you are doing? Does not *France* rejoyce in it? Do they not promise themselves an easie Victory over you? And have they not given you a Sample of it already?

How was the brave *Starembergh* Defeated? Was it not by having his Rear cut off from him? —— Why was the forward and gallant *Stanhope* Defeated? Was it not his being divided from Count *Starembergh*?—— I know not how they came to give the Enemy that Advantage over them—— But that

that he beat them by having that Advantage is apparent ——— And why do we not look out for that Mismanagement among the rest?

See the Mischief of being divided, *fatal Division*! had *Stanhope* and *Staremberg* been together, could the *Spaniards* have look'd them in the Face; Would *Philip* have dar'd to attack them? No more than *France* would us, if we were as we should be, Unanimous; but when these two are separated, when they are but three Days March asunder, but just parted, enough to be depriv'd of mutual Assistance, *see the Consequence*, they fall a Prey to a baffled Enemy; a Conquer'd, Broken, Discourag'd Army revies by the View of this Advantage, cuts off one and defeats the other, and thus we shall all do.

Will not this teach us? By what then shall we learn? Is this unhappy Nation never to be instructed but by their Disasters? Shall we be like the Infatuated *Jews*, that never could be Taught till the Flames took hold of the very Temple? If we are Deaf to this Instruction, 'tis a Sign of being hardned beyond the Hopes of Retrieve, and beyond the possibility of avoiding our Ruin.

For these Reasons, I would fain, be it in vain or not in vain, try to offer a Word or two to the People of this Generation, concerning NATIONAL PEACE. It is a sad Thing that we are come to such a Crisis, that the very Word PEACE, is an ungrateful Sound among us, and he that moves it, is sure to lay himself open to both Parties, and while he exhorts them to Peace, is certain to have none himself; but let that be as it will, be but at Peace with your selves, with your own Interest and your Country, you shall be at War with me and Welcome.

I have been long speaking of *National Credit*, and addressing my self to the Parliament and Government; I have with great Freedom told them, That to restore Credit they must make the Pople easie, they must let their Property be safe, and keeping the Peace, protect them from Rabbles and Tumult ——— I am persuaded, even the Government itself will acknowledge the Force of this Argument ——— And if they will not, the Force of this Argument will support it self.

I turn now to the People ——— if you will preserve your selves, if you will have Credit restor'd, Trade reviv'd, Manufactures Encourag'd, the Poor Employ'd, Taxes abated, or be able to pay them; if you will have the War kept from your own Doors, the Seas clear'd from Enemies, and the Land from Invasions, Peace Abroad obtain'd upon Honourable and Safe Terms; *in shore*, if you will have *France* beaten, the Succession Establish'd, and the Devil Disappointed, you must consider of being at Peace at Home, or 'tis all to no purpose.

As 'tis the Parliaments Duty, and the Governments Duty, and the Sovereigns Duty to make you safe, protect your Properties, preserve your Liberties, and as far as in them lies, to keep you easie; so it is your Duty to be easie, and as far as may consist with Liberty, Law, Right, and Property, to cement together, and join in every just *Thing* that may strengthen your Hands against the Furious Enemy you have to do with.

I am fully persuaded, had there been no Party War at Home, we had had no *French* War Abroad at this Time ——— Court Changes, Fall of Credit, Street Rabbles, Pulpit Out-cries, What have they all in their Consequences, but weaking the Hands of the Nation in General, and Encouraging the Enemy? ——— From our Divisions come their reviv'd Hopes, and the raising up *France* from despairing of carrying on the War, is by the *French* themselves acknowledg'd, to be done by our Divisions among us ——— I am not entering into the Merits of the Cause, or blaming this or that Party ——— I know who to blame well enough, but the Time is not now ——— In general they must have the blame, who pursue the Distractions and Divisions among us, to raise and continue Breaches, rather than heal, moderate and restore us; and let this fall where it will, 'tis all one to me.

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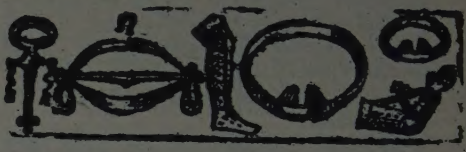

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